

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

KENNETH GIBBS,

Plaintiff,

v.

T. FARLEY, et al.,

Defendants.

No. C 13-02114 TEH (PR)

SECOND ORDER OF SERVICE

Plaintiff Kenneth Gibbs, a state prisoner presently incarcerated at California State Prison-Sacramento, filed the instant pro se prisoner complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 regarding incidents that took place at Pelican Bay State Prison (PBSP), where he was previously incarcerated. The Court screened the complaint and found Plaintiff had stated an Eighth Amendment excessive force claim. The Court ordered the complaint served on four defendants at PBSP.

Subsequently, defendants filed an unenumerated motion to dismiss the case on the ground that Plaintiff had not exhausted his administrative remedies. Thereafter, Plaintiff filed a motion for leave to file a supplemental complaint to add claims arising from events occurring after the filing of his original complaint. The Court noted Plaintiff's concession that he did not exhaust

1 administrative remedies before filing this action, as required by  
2 the Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (PLRA). See McKinney v.  
3 Carey, 311 F.3d 1198, 1199-1201 (9th Cir. 2002). The Court  
4 determined, however, that dismissal was improper given the Ninth  
5 Circuit's recent decision in Albino v. Baca, 747 F.3d 1162 (9th  
6 Cir. 2014), holding that "an unenumerated motion under Rule 12(b)  
7 is not the appropriate procedural device for pretrial determination  
8 of whether administrative remedies have been exhausted." Id. at  
9 1168. The Court also determined that dismissal was unnecessary  
10 given that Plaintiff exhausted administrative remedies subsequent  
11 to filing suit and sought to amend his complaint. See Rhodes v.  
12 Robinson, 621 F.3d 1002, 1006 (9th Cir. 2010) (prisoner may satisfy  
13 the exhaustion requirement as long as he exhausted his  
14 administrative remedies prior to filing an amended complaint). The  
15 Court therefore denied the motion to dismiss without prejudice and  
16 directed Plaintiff to file a first amended complaint, rather than a  
17 supplemental complaint. Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint  
18 ("FAC") is now before the Court for review pursuant to 28 U.S.C.  
19 § 1915A.

## I

21 Federal courts must engage in a preliminary screening of  
22 cases in which prisoners seek redress from a governmental entity or  
23 officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A  
24 (a). The court must identify cognizable claims or dismiss the  
25 complaint, or any portion of the complaint, if the complaint "is  
26 frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief  
27 may be granted," or "seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is

1 immune from such relief." Id. § 1915A(b). Pleadings filed by pro  
2 se litigants, however, must be liberally construed. Hebbe v.  
3 Pliler, 627 F.3d 338, 342 (9th Cir. 2010); Balistreri v. Pacifica  
4 Police Dep't., 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990).

5 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must  
6 allege two essential elements: (1) that a right secured by the  
7 Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and  
8 (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting  
9 under the color of state law. West v. Atkins, 487 U.S. 42, 48  
10 (1988).

11 Liability may be imposed on an individual defendant under  
12 § 1983 if the plaintiff can show that the defendant proximately  
13 caused the deprivation of a federally protected right. Leer v.  
14 Murphy, 844 F.2d 628, 634 (9th Cir. 1988); Harris v. City of  
15 Roseburg, 664 F.2d 1121, 1125 (9th Cir. 1981). A person deprives  
16 another of a constitutional right within the meaning of § 1983 if  
17 he does an affirmative act, participates in another's affirmative  
18 act or omits to perform an act which he is legally required to do,  
19 that causes the deprivation of which the plaintiff complains.  
20 Leer, 844 F.2d at 633.

## 21 II

22 In his FAC, Plaintiff asserts the following allegations.  
23 On April 24, 2013, PBSP Officers T. Farley and R. Graham came to  
24 Plaintiff's cell to escort him to the Interdisciplinary Treatment  
25 Team (IDTT). Officer J. Andersen was also present. After  
26 Plaintiff and Officer Farley exchanges some hostile words, Officers  
27 Farley and Andersen handled Plaintiff aggressively, making him feel  
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1 that his welfare and security were at stake. Upon exiting the  
2 building and out of sight of other inmates, these Officers slammed  
3 Plaintiff against the wall and told him that "if he moved, they  
4 were going to take him down." The Officers then reversed direction  
5 and began escorting Plaintiff back to his cell. Within a few feet  
6 of his cell, someone placed their foot before Plaintiff, causing  
7 him to fall. While Plaintiff was falling, Officer Andersen placed  
8 his knee upon Plaintiff's back, causing Plaintiff's handcuffs to  
9 tighten so that he felt excruciating pain. While Plaintiff was on  
10 the ground, Officers Andersen and Farley jammed their elbows into  
11 Plaintiff's neck, causing him more pain. During this entire time,  
12 Plaintiff was not resisting the Officers. Other Officers arrived  
13 at the scene. Officer Chisman kicked Plaintiff in his loins.

14 As a result of the Officers' use of excessive force,  
15 Plaintiff suffered a swollen eye, a swollen knee, and a sprained  
16 wrist. The Officers also filed a Rules Violation Report (RVR)  
17 against Plaintiff, falsely asserting that he was resisting a peace  
18 officer. Plaintiff was found guilty.

19 Plaintiff filed his original complaint in the instant  
20 action on June 4, 2013. On August 5, 2013, Plaintiff was released  
21 from PBSP's Administrative Segregation Unit (Ad-Seg) and returned  
22 to the general population. On August 10, 2013, Officer Andersen  
23 approached Plaintiff's new cell with Plaintiff's personal property  
24 and informed Plaintiff that he could not have his clippers,  
25 batteries, chess board, soap dish, playing cards, and prayer oil.  
26 Officer Andersen asked whether Plaintiff wanted to donate the items  
27 or send them home. Plaintiff informed Officer Andersen that he  
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1 would file a lawsuit, and Officer Andersen walked away. On  
2 September 7, 2013, Officer Andersen again approached Plaintiff's  
3 cell with Plaintiff's personal property and asked Plaintiff what  
4 Plaintiff wanted to do with the items that he was not allowed to  
5 have. Plaintiff told Officer Andersen that he would donate the  
6 items but then asked to have his CD-player, ten CDs, rechargeable  
7 batteries, battery charger, and headphones. Officer Andersen  
8 informed Plaintiff that the requested items had been confiscated  
9 from his prior Ad-Seg cell because Plaintiff was not supposed to  
10 have them.

11           Based on these allegations, Plaintiff alleges the  
12 following claims: (1) an Eighth Amendment claim against Officers  
13 Farley, Andersen, and Chisman based on their use of excessive force  
14 against Plaintiff; (2) an Eighth Amendment claim against Officers  
15 Graham and Chisman based on the fact that they were present when  
16 the other Officers violated Plaintiff's Eighth Amendment rights and  
17 did nothing to stop them; (3) a claim for lack of access to the  
18 Courts against Officers Farley, Andersen, Graham, and Chisman on  
19 the ground that they filed false reports of the above-mentioned  
20 incident to cover up their use of excessive force; and (4) a First  
21 Amendment claim against Officer Andersen on the ground that he  
22 confiscated Plaintiff's personal property in retaliation for  
23 Plaintiff filing the instant action.

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## III

## A

In its prohibition of "cruel and unusual punishment," the Eighth Amendment places restraints on prison officials, who may not, for example, use excessive force against prisoners. Hudson v. McMillian, 503 U.S. 1, 6-7 (1992). Where a prisoner claims that prison officials used excessive force, he must show that the officials applied force maliciously and sadistically to cause harm. Id.; Furnace v. Sullivan, 705 F.3d 1021, 1030 (9th Cir. 2013). Although the Eighth Amendment protects against cruel and unusual punishment, this does not mean that federal courts can or should interfere whenever prisoners are inconvenienced or suffer de minimis injuries. Hudson, 503 U.S. at 9-10. In determining whether the use of force was for the purpose of maintaining or restoring discipline, or for the malicious and sadistic purpose of causing harm, a court may evaluate the need for application of force, the relationship between that need and the amount of force used, the extent of any injury inflicted, the threat reasonably perceived by the responsible officials, and any efforts made to temper the severity of a forceful response. Id., 503 U.S. at 7; LeMaire v. Maass, 12 F.3d 1444, 1454 (9th Cir. 1993); see also Spain v. Procunier, 600 F.2d 189, 195 (9th Cir. 1979) (guards may use force only in proportion to need in each situation).

Construing the allegations liberally, Plaintiff states an Eighth Amendment excessive force claim against Defendants.

## B

Prisoners have a constitutional right of access to the

1 courts. Lewis v. Casey, 518 U.S. 343, 350 (1996); Bounds v. Smith,  
2 430 U.S. 817, 821 (1977). To establish a claim for a violation of  
3 the right of access to the courts, the prisoner must prove that  
4 there was an inadequacy in the prison's legal access program that  
5 caused him an actual injury. Lewis, 518 U.S. at 350-55. To prove  
6 an actual injury, the prisoner must show that the inadequacy in the  
7 prison's program hindered his efforts to pursue a non-frivolous  
8 claim in court concerning his conviction or conditions of  
9 confinement. Id. at 354-55; Christopher v. Harbury, 536 U.S. 403,  
10 415 (2002) (to state a claim, allegations must show the actual  
11 injury of being shut out of court).

12           Plaintiff alleged denial of access to the courts in his  
13 original complaint in this action. The Court found that, even  
14 construed liberally, Plaintiff's allegations were insufficient to  
15 establish actual injury. Although Plaintiff stated that Defendants  
16 falsified their reports so that he was found guilty, he did not  
17 allege how those false reports prevented him from pursuing his  
18 claim against them in court. The Court further informed Plaintiff  
19 that a prisoner has no constitutionally guaranteed right not to be  
20 falsely or wrongly accused of conduct which may result in the  
21 deprivation of a protected liberty interest. Sprouse v. Babcock,  
22 870 F.2d 450, 452 (8th Cir. 1989); Freeman v. Rideout, 808 F.2d  
23 949, 951 (2d Cir. 1986). Plaintiff was granted leave to amend to  
24 remedy the deficiency.

25           In the FAC, Plaintiff again fails to establish actual  
26 injury. The FAC contains the same conclusory allegations that  
27 Defendants somehow prevented Plaintiff from proving a  
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1 constitutional violation. Plaintiff appears to be claiming that  
2 had Defendants told the alleged truth at his disciplinary hearing,  
3 he would have been acquitted of the charges in the RVR. This is  
4 nothing more than a claim for false charges which, as stated above,  
5 is foreclosed. See Sprouse, 870 F.2d at 452; Freeman, 808 F.2d at  
6 951. Accordingly, Plaintiff's claim for denial of access to the  
7 courts is dismissed. Dismissal is without leave to amend because  
8 Plaintiff has been given an opportunity to amend this claim and it  
9 appears that further amendment would be futile.

## C

11 "Within the prison context, a viable claim of First  
12 Amendment retaliation entails five basic elements: (1) An  
13 assertion that a state actor took some adverse action against an  
14 inmate (2) because of (3) that prisoner's protected conduct, and  
15 that such action (4) chilled the inmate's exercise of his First  
16 Amendment rights, and (5) the action did not reasonably advance a  
17 legitimate correctional goal." Rhodes v. Robinson, 408 F.3d 559,  
18 567-68 (9th Cir. 2005) (footnote omitted). The plaintiff must show  
19 that the type of activity he was engaged in was protected by the  
20 First Amendment and that the protected conduct was a substantial or  
21 motivating factor for the alleged retaliatory acts. See Mt Healthy  
22 City Bd. of Educ. v. Doyle, 429 U.S. 274, 287 (1977). Retaliation  
23 is not established simply by showing adverse activity by a  
24 defendant after protected speech; rather, the plaintiff must show a  
25 nexus between the two. See Huskey v. City of San Jose, 204 F.3d  
26 893, 899 (9th Cir. 2000) (retaliation claim cannot rest on the  
27 logical fallacy of post hoc, ergo propter hoc, i.e., "after this,



1 therefore because of this"). See generally Reichle, et al. v.  
2 Howards, 132 S.Ct. 2088, 2097-98 (2012) (Ginsburg, J. concurring)  
3 (finding no inference of retaliatory animus from Secret Service  
4 agents' assessment whether the safety of the person they are  
5 guarding is in danger); Dietrich v. John Ascuaga's Nugget, 548 F.3d  
6 892, 901 (9th Cir. 2008) (finding no retaliation where plaintiff  
7 presented no evidence that defendants gave her a traffic citation  
8 after defendants read a newspaper article about her First Amendment  
9 activities, rather than because she drove past a police barricade  
10 with a "road closed" sign on it); Huskey, 204 F.3d at 899 (summary  
11 judgment proper against plaintiff who could only speculate that  
12 adverse employment decision was due to his negative comments about  
13 his supervisor six or seven months earlier).

14           Plaintiff claims that Officer Andersen confiscated his  
15 property in retaliation for his having filed the instant lawsuit,  
16 but fails to allege any facts that elevate his allegations to the  
17 level of a plausible retaliation claim. The confiscation of  
18 property does not alone imply retaliation. There are no facts  
19 alleged suggesting that Officer Andersen denied Plaintiff's request  
20 for his property because of Plaintiff's protected conduct rather  
21 than for departmental reasons, or that the action chilled  
22 Plaintiff's First Amendment rights, or that the action did not  
23 reasonably advance a legitimate correctional goal. Accordingly,  
24 Plaintiff's retaliation claim is dismissed. Leave to amend is  
25 granted so that Plaintiff may attempt to allege a plausible  
26 retaliation claim, if he truthfully can do so.

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## IV

For the foregoing reasons, the Court hereby orders as follows:

1. Plaintiff's Eighth Amendment excessive force claims against all Defendants are cognizable. Plaintiff's claim for denial of access to the courts is DISMISSED without leave to amend. Plaintiff's retaliation claim is DISMISSED with leave to amend for Plaintiff to remedy the deficiencies noted in the Order, if he truthfully can do so.

2. To expedite the resolution of this case, the Court orders as follows:

a. No later than 91 days from the date this order is filed, Defendants must file and serve a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion. A motion for summary judgment also must be accompanied by a Rand notice so that Plaintiff will have fair, timely and adequate notice of what is required of him in order to oppose the motion. Woods v. Carey, 684 F.3d 934, 939 (9th Cir. 2012) (notice requirement set out in Rand v. Rowland, 154 F.3d 952 (9th Cir. 1998), must be served concurrently with motion for summary judgment).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> If Defendants assert that Plaintiff failed to exhaust his available administrative remedies as required by 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a), Defendants must raise such argument in a motion for summary judgment, pursuant to the Ninth Circuit's recent opinion in Albino v. Baca, 747 F.3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2014) (en banc) (overruling Wyatt v. Terhune, 315 F.3d 1108, 1119 (9th Cir. 2003), which held that failure to exhaust available administrative remedies under the Prison Litigation Reform Act, should be raised by a defendant as an unenumerated Rule 12(b) motion). Such a motion should also incorporate a modified Wyatt

1 If Defendants are of the opinion that this case cannot be  
2 resolved by summary judgment, Defendants must so inform the Court  
3 prior to the date the motion is due.

4 b. Plaintiff's opposition to the summary judgment  
5 or other dispositive motion must be filed with the Court and served  
6 upon Defendants no later than 28 days from the date the motion is  
7 filed. Plaintiff must bear in mind the notice and warning  
8 regarding summary judgment provided later in this order as he  
9 prepares his opposition to any motion for summary judgment.

10 c. Defendants shall file a reply brief no later  
11 than 14 days after the date the opposition is filed. The motion  
12 shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due.  
13 No hearing will be held on the motion.

14 3. Plaintiff is advised that a motion for summary  
15 judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure  
16 will, if granted, end your case. Rule 56 tells you what you must  
17 do in order to oppose a motion for summary judgment. Generally,  
18 summary judgment must be granted when there is no genuine issue of  
19 material fact - that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact  
20 that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked for  
21 summary judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which  
22 will end your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion for  
23 summary judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or  
24 other sworn testimony), you cannot simply rely on what your

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26 notice in light of Albino. See Wyatt v. Terhune, 315 F.3d 1108, 1120,  
27 n.14 (9th Cir. 2003); Stratton v. Buck, 697 F.3d 1004, 1008 (9th Cir.  
28 2012).

1 complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in  
2 declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or  
3 authenticated documents, as provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict  
4 the facts shown in the defendants' declarations and documents and  
5 show that there is a genuine issue of material fact for trial. If  
6 you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, summary  
7 judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you. If summary  
8 judgment is granted, your case will be dismissed and there will be  
9 no trial. Rand v. Rowland, 154 F.3d 952, 962-63 (9th Cir. 1998)  
10 (en banc) (App. A).

11 (The Rand notice above does not excuse Defendants'  
12 obligation to serve said notice again concurrently with a motion  
13 for summary judgment. Woods, 684 F.3d at 939).

14 4. If Plaintiff can cure the pleading deficiencies  
15 described above in regard to his retaliation claim, he may file a  
16 second amended complaint within twenty-eight days from the date  
17 this order is filed. The second amended complaint must include the  
18 caption and civil case number used in this order (C 13-2114 TEH  
19 (PR)) and the words SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT on the first page.

20 Plaintiff is advised that the second amended complaint  
21 will supersede the prior complaint and all other pleadings. Claims  
22 and defendants not included in the second amended complaint will  
23 not be considered by the Court. See Lacey v. Maricopa County, 693  
24 F.3d 896 (9th Cir. 2012) (en banc) ("For claims dismissed with  
25 prejudice and without leave to amend, we will not require that they  
26 be repleaded in a subsequent amended complaint to preserve them for  
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1 appeal. But for any claims voluntarily dismissed, we will consider  
2 those claims to be waived if not replied." ). Plaintiff may not  
3 incorporate material from the prior complaints by reference.  
4 Failure to file a second amended complaint within twenty-eight days  
5 and in accordance with this order will result in a finding that  
6 further leave to amend would be futile, and the deficient  
7 retaliation claim will be dismissed.

8           5. If Plaintiff does not wish to file an amended  
9 complaint, he shall so inform the Court within twenty-eight days  
10 from the date of this Order.

11           6. The Clerk is directed to correct the spelling of  
12 Defendant R. Grahams' last name to read Graham.

13           7. The Court notes that Defendant Graham has not been  
14 served. On July 17, 2013, the United States Marshal informed the  
15 Court that it could not serve Defendant Graham. The process and  
16 return filed by the Marshal indicates that the PBSP Litigation  
17 Coordinator said that more information is needed to identify this  
18 Defendant. It could be that the misspelling of Graham's last name  
19 caused the problem in service. In any event, on August 21, 2013,  
20 the Court issued an order directing Plaintiff to provide the Court  
21 with a current location for Defendant Graham such that the United  
22 States Marshal could effectuate service. Subsequently, on  
23 September 12, 2013, Plaintiff provided the following additional  
24 information for Defendant Graham:

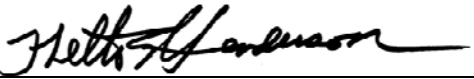
25 R. Graham (Female)  
26 Badge #82207, ID #116001595  
27 RDOS F/S Position A2-S&E#1  
28 Pelican Bay State Prison

1 Accordingly, the Clerk shall send a courtesy copy of this  
2 order to the State Attorney General's Office in San Francisco.  
3 Additionally, the Clerk shall send a copy of this order to  
4 Plaintiff and to the PBSP Litigation Coordinator. The PBSP  
5 Litigation Coordinator is requested to take note of the additional  
6 location information for R. Graham provided above.

7 Counsel for Defendants is directed to inform the Court no  
8 later than thirty (30) days from the date of this order whether he  
9 will also represent Defendant R. Graham.

10 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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12 Dated: 08/04/2014

  
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THELTON E. HENDERSON  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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